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Villagers use new law to try to put in a bid for the Red Lion

BATTLE TO BUY A PUB

By Oliver Evans

VILLAGERS have used new laws to delay the sale of a former pub – so they can put a bid together.

Bloxham Parish Council has won Cherwell District Council's permission to stay any sale of The Red Lion, one of three pubs in the village.

The pub closed in August and is now boarded up. It was put on the market by Fuller's

brewery. Residents say they have more than £100,000 pledged towards the £400,000 asking price.

The district council has registered the pub as an "asset of community value" using part of the Localism Act 2011.

This means it cannot be sold for six weeks. So, the villagers

have until February 17, before telling the council if they want to put in a bid.

Should this be the case, the parish council would have a further six months to put a bid together, though the final decision on its sale rests with Fuller's.

Colin Challenger, a regular for 25 years who is helping put together the bid, said Bloxham once had seven pubs, but now there was just The Joiners Arms and the Elephant and Castle.

The barrister said: "The Red Lion has the best site, is on the main road and it has a big car park."

Fuller's has invited offers around £400,000 for the pub but £800,000 if it is converted into a house, he said.

He said: "The village can't pay anything other than a fair commercial price for the premises as a pub, otherwise our community venture would go bust."

Villagers have formed an industrial and provident society, to which more than 100 people have pledged over £100,000, he said.

Resident Nicole Hamilton said she had seen communities save pubs using the laws in her role as an officer at Woodstock's The Plunkett Foundation, which supports voluntary groups.

She said: "I know it can be done, but it is up to the community. It is not something one person can do."

The 39-year-old said: "It is really

important that we keep our village thriving. If we can let one asset go, before we know it there will be another and another."

More than 150 people who attended a public meeting at Jubilee Hall on the plans on Sunday showed strong support said solicitor Brian Auld, 54.

A cafe, restaurant and even bakery at the site are among options along with the pub. He said: "The hope is to turn it into a true community asset. There is no obligation on the owner to sell, but the district council's decision does at least give us time to get the community together."

A Fuller's spokesman said: "We don't like losing pubs, but every now and again we find our options limited. In this case, we have made the difficult decision to close the pub."

"Having tried to seek a permanent tenant for some time, we have now decided to dispose of the property – either as a pub or as a site for redevelopment."

"We are talking to various individuals on both counts and would be happy to discuss the options and relevant costs with other interested parties."



Colin Challenger, chairman of the Bloxham Red Lion Steering Group, is pictured with other villagers outside the Red Lion pub in Bloxham

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ALL WINDOWS MANUFACTURED IN BANBURY

■ Accident verdict after tree surgeon fell from bridge into stream

Inquest is told of a tragic end to night out

A YOUNG tree surgeon drowned when he fell off a bridge over a stream after a night out with friends, an inquest heard.

Patrick "Paddy" Kellett, 21, was found lying face down in a shallow stream in Bloxham after going drinking in Banbury last August.

An inquest at Oxfordshire Coroner's Court heard that tests showed Mr Kellett was three times over the drink-drive limit when he died.

Friends had not seen Mr Kellett since they were together at the MooMoo nightclub in the town's High Street.

Police believe he fell into the stream, near Lower Bridge Road, while he was making his way to a friend's house after taking a taxi to Bloxham alone.

Mr Kellett, of Mullein Road, Bicester, had sent a text message to friend Steven O'Connor at about 1.40am on Saturday, August 10, which read: "See I back at

By Ben Wilkinson

yours". But the inquest heard Mr O'Connor had been taken in to police custody for reasons that were not disclosed after the night out and would not have been home.

Det Con Michael West, investigating officer, told the inquest that Mr Kellett had been pictured on CCTV leaving the club and heading towards the taxi rank.

But DC West said appeals to find the cab driver who took Mr Kellett back to Bloxham had failed.

The detective also said Mr Kellett had an injury to his temple he had probably suffered in the 6.4m fall from the bridge.

Mr Kellett's body was found by villager Virginia Seckerson as she checked on her chickens shortly after 8am. Her husband, David, went into the stream to check for a pulse but knew Mr Kellett had died, the court heard.

A statement from PC Barry Duplock, who was the first officer on the scene, said Mr Kellett was found in water 15cm to 20cm deep.

Mr Kellett's mother, Jackie, said scratches found on her son's body were likely to have been caused by his tree surgeon work.

She also questioned whether her son had been walking along the bridge wall before he fell.

She said: "It is the sort of thing he may have done. For a tree surgeon, heights were not an issue."

Oxfordshire Coroner Darren Salter recorded a verdict of accident and said it was most likely that Mr Kellett had fallen from the bridge into the stream.

Speaking after the inquest, a family member who asked not to be named, said: "He was much loved and he is terribly missed by his friends and family."

"The family are incredibly grateful for the huge amount of support and love that has been shown for Paddy."



Patrick 'Paddy' Kellett

InBRIEF

Linking up for over-50s fitness

■ THOSE who run activities and exercise classes in the Banbury area can add their details to a website aimed at helping the over-50s stay healthy. The Generation Games website, is a partnership between Age UK Oxfordshire and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust. Visit the website at generationgames.org.uk

Rank to stay

■ THAMES Valley Police says it has no plans to cut the chief inspector rank to save cash – despite a neighbouring forces doing so. Wiltshire Police last month said it was to scrap the rank in a bid to save £1m, reduce bureaucracy and simplify hierarchy. But a Thames Valley Police spokesman said: "Thames Valley Police has no plans to cut this rank."

Final chance

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■ Police officer and her co-accused deny making £26,400

Jury told how PC sold crash data

A NUMBER of motorists said a "pushy" police officer, who has been accused of "stealing" force accident data, bombarded them with calls urging them to make compensation claims.

They said PC Sugra Hanif was "aggressive" during repeated telephone calls, which prosecutors allege netted her and two co-accused at least £26,400 in £700-a-time referral fees.

Prosecutors said the Banbury 27-year-old used the name Sarah Gold, of SR Auto Repairs, when she called Clive Rapaisi.

Pilot Mr Rapaisi – who three days earlier had reported to police that his car had been damaged – said: "It was a sales pitch to inform me that I should pursue a compensation claim."

He told the jury at Winchester Crown Court: "The woman said cases like mine could net £1,000 to £1,500 in compensation.

By Oliver Evans

"I declined and although she rang me a number of times I didn't answer. It was irritating."

He later rang back and met "Pam" from "V & R Accident Management" on September 12, 2011, who secured him £600 compensation.

Prosecutors allege this was Paramjeet Kaur, who is co-accused, along with her husband and Hanif's lover, Raza Khan. They say Hanif accessed 2,456 different incident reports on police computers.

Fatima Karaka said she received dozens of calls from "SR Auto Repairs" after telling the police that her car was involved in an accident with a Boots lorry in June 2011.

Ms Karaka said: "She was getting frustrated because I didn't have the lorry's registration number. She

suggested she could provide me with a number for one of the Boots lorries. She said they were a big company, and it didn't matter if I made it up.

"She was quite aggressive and couldn't understand why I didn't want to go ahead."

Ms Karaka ignored further calls but added: "I felt angry because you think the police are there to protect you and not the other way around."

Hanif, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, denies obtaining personal data from the Thames Valley Police control and command system, and a charge of disclosing the personal data.

Khan, of Birmingham, denies obtaining information from the Thames Valley Police control and command system.

Kaur, from the same address, Khan and Hanif all deny one count of conspiracy to commit misconduct in a public office.

The case continues.



Accused: Sugra Hanif

Child sex abuser avoids prison term

A TWENTY-year-old man, who was convicted of sexually abusing a 13-year-old boy, has avoided jail.

Tommy Fury, who now lives in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, after his family moved from The Beeches Caravan Park, near Chipping Norton, was sentenced in Oxford Crown Court.

He was found guilty by a majority verdict, after a trial in October last year, of performing a sex act on a teenage boy on three occasions in 2011, when Fury was 17.

He was cleared of an indecent assault on another teenage boy, who, it was alleged, he had kissed on the neck.

Charles Ward-Jackson, prosecuting, said there was evidence that Fury had bought alcohol for his young victim, who was drunk when he took advantage of him.

Passing sentence, Judge Gordon Risius said the crimes had not come to light until 18 months later, when the defendant contacted the teenager by text message.

He said Fury told his victim he wanted a "repeat performance" of the abuse and threatened to reveal what had happened if he did not agree to meet.

Judge Risius said: "You decided to take advantage of him to satisfy our own sexual urges. It has had a serious impact not only on your victim but also on his family."

Peter Du Fen, defending, said Fury continued to deny that the abuse took place.

Fury was sentenced to a two-year community order with a supervision requirement and a one-month curfew requirement. He was also made subject to a sex offences prevention order.

In Brief

Decision postponed

COUNCILLORS have deferred making a decision on a plan to extend Castle Quay shopping centre. Cherwell District Council's planning committee last Thursday agreed to postpone the decision until next month for more transport studies to take place. The scheme would see a supermarket, cinema, restaurants built around the Oxford canal.

Increase in tax share

CHIPPING Norton Town Council will raise its share of the council tax bill by almost £60,000 to improve the "shabby" town.

Council members have approved its rate increase from £137,197 in 2013-2014, to £191,877 for the year 2014-15. This will mean a rise of £22 for those living in a Band D property. The extra money raised will help fund projects such as the renovation of the town hall.

Samaritans meetings

PEOPLE interested in volunteering for The Samaritans can attend information events, to be staged next Thursday, from 7pm to 9pm, on and Saturday, February 1, from 10am to noon. Both will be held at The Samaritans office, 33 Albert Street. Details: 01295 270000.

Inquest adjourned

A THIRTY-year-old man from Leicester was found dead in Banbury on Boxing Day. The body of Matthew Ducharme was found on a mattress in a Ribston Close home, an inquest opening heard at Oxfordshire Coroner's Court on Tuesday. Of last week. Coroner Darren Salter adjourned the inquest for further investigation but told the court Mr Ducharme had had a history of drug misuse.

Charity praised

A NATIONAL charity based in Banbury has been judged to be "outstanding" by Ofsted. Adoption UK, of The Green, provides support for adoptive parents. In the report inspector Paul Clark said: "The service is clearly focused on the support of adoptive families, which adoption agencies thought were in danger of breaking down. The agency has achieved an exceptional level of success in making and repairing adoptive families."

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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■ Training course launched as 8,000 people are hit by dementia

Bid to spread county caring



Nyarai Humba, who has trained to become a dementia friends champion

OX64525

By Debbie Waite

AROUND 8,000 people in Oxfordshire are said to have some form of dementia.

And a training course, set up by the Alzheimer's Society, aims to help the public understand what it is like to live with the illness.

Sara Miles, a worker with the society, said: "People can receive ongoing support and be part of a growing network of people creating dementia-friendly communities in Oxfordshire."

"It's all about giving more people an understanding of dementia and the small things that could make a difference to people living in their community."

Dementia friends champions work on a voluntary basis and will be trained and equipped with resources to answer people's questions about dementia and suggest sources of further information and support.

After completing the course, they will be encouraged

to help set up and run sessions for people who sign up as dementia friends, at lunch clubs, educational institutions and other community groups.

There are currently 2,000 dementia friends across the UK, but the Alzheimer's Society hopes dementia champions will quickly multiply.

Carer and mum-of-three, Nyarai Humba, 55, is one of nine people from Oxfordshire who has been through the dementia champions course. She said it had "opened her eyes" to some of the many difficulties facing dementia patients.

She added: "I am a trained nurse, but I was still blown away by some of the things I learned on the course – particularly about how people with dementia perceive the world and how in turn this makes them react. This includes things like not being able to distinguish between different doors, which can take away their ability to take themselves to the toilet."

As a dementia friends champion Mrs Humba can choose how often she organises

sessions to recruit dementia friends, but she said she is already looking forward to sharing what she has learned across the county.

She said: "It is vital that we improve our understanding of dementia. People can be frightened of dementia but it is a growing problem and we must become a county of dementia friends."

In December, Prime Minister and Oxfordshire MP David Cameron pledged to double dementia research funding from £66m in 2015 to £122m by 2026.

Sign up to a dementia friends champions training session by visiting: dementiafriends.org.uk/session/trainingcourses

For information on Alzheimer's Society support, call 01865 876508.

InBRIEF

Inquest into canal death

■ AN inquest was opened at Oxfordshire Coroner's Court last week into the death of a man found dead in a chair in his canal boat. Ian "Spike" Mason, 62, was found dead, along with his dog in his Samara narrowboat in Oxford Canal, Banbury, on January 2. Police were called after a neighbour went past Mr Mason's boat twice in one day and noticed he was sitting in the same position in his chair. The inquest was adjourned but Oxfordshire Coroner Darren Salter told the court that police believe Mr Mason and his dog may have died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Heartfelt plea

■ FUNDRAISING will kick off in this year to install life-saving defibrillators at Midcounties Co-operative stores. The devices can shock hearts back into life after cardiac arrest. The Co-op is working with The Community Heartbeat Trust. Further details on where and when these might be installed have not been released. The devices could be used by the public in an emergency. Co-op head of community engagement Maxine Sharman said: "This landmark project will make a significant difference in our local communities."

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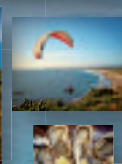
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County's roads set for survey

OXFORDSHIRE'S new roads maintenance contractor, Skanska, is carrying out a complete review of the county's highways network.

This is part of Oxfordshire County Council's attempt to get a better understanding of the condition of its roads – information which will be stored and updated periodically.

Huw Jones, county council director for environment and economy, said: "To improve the condition of local roads we need a better understanding of the asset."

"This will include comprehensive knowledge of the condition recorded on a system."

"This information would be continually updated and utilised to inform future maintenance programmes."

Skanska took over the county council's £28m contract in October after the previous holder – a company called Atkins – sold its highway services business.

It means Skanska is now responsible for routine road maintenance around Oxfordshire including safety defect repair, gully emptying, gritting and grass cutting.

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■ Officials from good causes speak out as cheat is jailed

How to spot fake charity fundraisers



David Solomon

CHARITIES hit by an Oxfordshire fraudster have offered advice on how not to get caught out by connen in the New Year.

David Solomon, who was jailed in December, told people he was collecting money for the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK and the now-defunct group Cancer Relations.

The 35-year-old claimed to be doing a walk to raise funds because he said his father had died of cancer and his brother was a present sufferer.

He provided authentic-looking sponsorship forms from the charities and told people they had to give cash on the spot if they wanted to donate.

When he was sentenced to six months in prison, suspended for two years, on December 17 at Oxford Crown Court, Solomon was told by Judge Gordon Risius he had "taken advantage of people's

By Joe Nimmo

generosity" in order to make money for himself.

Solomon was convicted of three counts of fraud by false representation on November 13 last year and admitted a further two counts.

After the hearing Andrew Russell, head of supporter development for the British Heart Foundation said: "We're keen to highlight some top tips to spot a genuine fundraiser.

"It's important to note that our fundraisers will always be wearing red British Heart Foundation-branded clothing and will always carry an ID card.

"This card clearly displays their full name and photograph on the front. A genuine fundraiser will also never ask for cash or for the long card number across the front of your card.

"Donations to the BHF are crucial to help us continue our life-saving work into the fight against heart disease in Oxford."

Helen Johnstone, spokesman for Cancer Research UK in Oxfordshire, said its fundraisers would also be wearing branded uniforms and carrying fundraiser ID.

She said: "In addition, they carry a contact number which can be called to verify that the fundraiser is genuine.

"They will also help up-to-date information on us and our work, and will be able to advise where to go for further information on the charity or cancer itself.

"Volunteers carrying out cash collections are provided with a collection certificate and should be wearing a branded T-shirt or sash."

To donate to Cancer Research UK people can call 0300 123 1022 and to donate to the British Heart Foundation call 0300 330 3322.

How BT made £81m for county

COMMUNICATIONS giant BT says its activities have generated £81m for the Oxfordshire economy over the past year.

The firm employs 638 staff in the county and spends a total of £2.52bn with suppliers in Oxfordshire and across the south-east.

John Weaver, BT's south-east regional

director, said: "BT and its employees make a major contribution to the Oxfordshire economy.

"They are a key part of its prosperity and economic well-being. BT is at the centre of every community and our day-to-day work benefits every local authority area across the UK."

He added: "BT's role in Oxfordshire and the south-east region is more significant than these figures suggest in this comprehensive report.

"In addition to the activities analysed, we are creating a high-speed fibre broadband network which will be essential to the future success of local businesses and households."

Last August, Oxfordshire County Council revealed BT had been chosen to deliver its £25m so-called better broadband project.

The scheme, which will receive £14m of public money and

£11m of investment from BT, will aim to have a minimum speed of 24 mbps available to 90 per cent of local businesses and homes by the end of 2015, and a minimum of 2mbps to the remaining ten per cent.

The scheme will be rolled out gradually to 67,000 homes and businesses, almost entirely in rural areas, between now and December 2015.



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InBRIEF**New Year's Day death**

■ A FIFTY-three-year-old woman died after drinking alcohol at a New Year's party, an inquest opening has heard. Elizabeth Farrow was found lying on her back on her living room floor on New Year's Day at her home in Ruscombe Arcade, Banbury, the hearing at Oxfordshire Coroner's Court was told. Coroner Darren Salter, who adjourned the inquest, told the court Ms Farrow had a medical history of alcohol dependency.

Drivers tally

■ A POLICE campaign saw 281 motorists arrested on suspicion of drink-driving in the region last month. Thames Valley Police arrested 231 men and 50 women in December, compared to the 218 men and 60 women arrested in a similar crackdown in 2012. In all, 161 of the suspects have been charged, with 82 released on police bail and 38 released with no further action. Oxfordshire figures were unavailable.

Internet link

■ SHOPPERS can get free wi-fi Internet access at the Castle Quay shopping centre, Banbury, from this month. The centre has teamed up with O2 to provide the service. See: castlequay.co.uk

■ Boss tells of £200m funding gap if NHS savings are not made

Future health services: There are no guarantees



ABOVE: OCCG's Ian Wilson at the final meeting

A HEALTH service chief told a public meeting there were no guarantees over maintaining NHS services with the pressure of a major savings challenge.

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) interim chief executive Ian Wilson issued the warning at the last of seven public meetings to debate the group's planned budget cut-backs.

The authority, which makes most NHS county funding decisions, faces a funding gap of up to £200m by 2020 if savings are not made, he said.

The OCCG held the meetings in Bicester, Banbury, Wantage, Witney, Oxford and Wallingford to hear residents' views.

Around 50 people attended the final meeting at Oxford Town Hall.

The Liberal Democrat

By Oliver Evans

prospective Parliamentary candidate for the Kidlington seat, Layla Moran, told Mr Wilson the funding gap was "alarming".

She asked: "Can you say, hand on heart, that services will not deteriorate between now and 2020?"

Mr Wilson said: "Absolutely not. I can't guarantee that. It is determined by the economic circumstances."

He told the meeting the OCCG was having to save £20m this year to try to balance its £597.8m budget but was still expecting to be £12m in the red.

An ageing population, rising demand for services and the cost of new treatments were putting pressure on finances, he added.

The secretary of Oxon Keep Our NHS Public – Bill MacKeith – said £20m a year could be saved by "reneging" on repayments for hospital buildings built under the controversial private finance initiative.

This has seen developments like the Oxford Cancer Centre built by private investors, which the Oxfordshire University Hospitals NHS Trust then pays back over 35 years with interest.

Mr Wilson said the OUHT told him that compared to other places, the burden of the PFI on the John Radcliffe Hospital was less, but he added: "I'm not suggesting it is not a problem."

A key challenge is getting the NHS closer to people's homes, said OCCG accountable officer Dr Stephen Richards.

Yet he said: "The gap between the healthier and wealthier population in this

county and those who are less wealthy has not changed markedly."

Unison Oxfordshire secretary Mark Ladbroke warned of "cuts" and said: "At some stage this system is going to break."

"The pressures are increasing all the time."

He urged bosses to "push back" against the Government but Mr Wilson said this would be "completely wrong and improper" as the OCCG had "no mandate" to be a campaigning organisation.

About 400 people attended the previous six events and gave almost 200 responses to go into a five-year plan for the OCCG.

It will be discussed at the next OCCG board meeting at Jubilee House, Oxford Business Park at 9am on Tuesday, January 30.

The public can attend the meeting.

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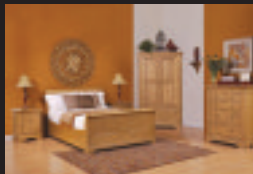


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Coogan's comic character hits the big screen

FANS of Steve Coogan will be able to see the comic's alter-ego - Alan Partridge - on the big screen at the Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, on Wednesday, January 22.

Written by Coogan, Armando Iannucci and brothers Neil and Rob Gibbons, *Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa* pays affectionate tribute to Norfolk's knitwear-clad DJ (Coogan) as he turns saviour during a siege at his own radio station.

People who loved his TV series will be able to second-guess some of the titular presenter halts the important task of negotiating the release of hostages to broadcast a live phone-in about bus drivers.

When Coogan isn't delivering punchlines, there's plenty of slapstick humour, including at least one incident of Alan being caught with his trousers down.

In fact, the Alan Partridge character is a full-on phenomenon, a multi-platform fictional celebrity whose catchphrases, mangled metaphors and social ineptitude are the stuff of legend and good ratings.

He first appeared as an inept sports reporter on BBC Radio 4 in 1991 before going on to host his own parody talkshow, *Knowing Me, Knowing You ... With Alan Partridge*.

Since that early 90s highpoint, Partridge's career, at least within the fictional universe around him, has been in precipitous decline.

Things reached their nadir in 1997 when, having lost his national TV gig and in the full throes of a midlife crisis, he was forced to fall back on a DJ gig at a local station in his hometown - Norwich.

Alpha Papa finds Partridge in better form, mellowed a bit now that he's in his mid-50s, but still not so proud or well-off that he doesn't have to drive a car that's effectively a moving billboard for a local Norfolk dealership.

His latest berth is at North Norfolk Digital Radio, where he presents his "Mid-Morning Matters," a blend of inane chat and easy listening co-presented

with Sidekick Simon (Tim Key, whose character was introduced in a recent online-only series). But when the station comes under the ownership of conglomerate Gordale Media, fronted by the bullish Jason (Nigel Lindsay), Alan, rightly fearing that he could be laid off, talks the new executives into firing his sack colleague Pat Farrell (Colm Meaney) instead.

Already grieving the death of his wife, Pat goes postal and takes Jason and all the

station's employees hostage with a shotgun.

For reasons not especially well explained, Alan is chosen to go back into the station as mediator between the police and Pat, who's taken over the airwaves.

Pat trusts Alan enough to allow him outside to talk to the cops and the media, and soon the DJ begins to enjoy his newly invigorated celebrity status and seeks to parlay it into career advancement.

For more details, contact Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, on 01295 279002.



Steve Coogan pictured on the film set



Steve Coogan as his creation, Alan Partridge

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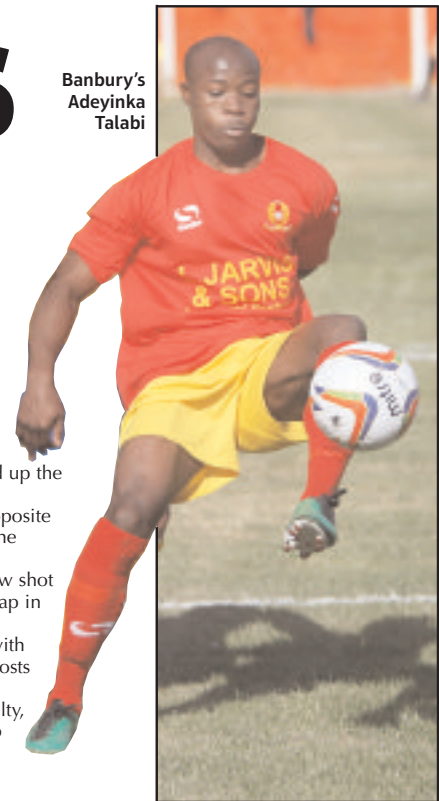
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Substitute Lawless rises to the rescue

Banbury's Adeyinka Talabi



SUBSTITUTE Dominic Lawless scored a second-half clincher as Banbury got back to winning ways with a narrow victory against their in-form Calor League Premier Division visitors at Spencer Stadium on Saturday.

But they did it the hard way, twice squandering the lead before finally securing the three points which lifted Edwin Stein's side to eighth in the Premier Division table.

Early on Banbury had to withstand severe Arlesey pressure before they took the lead just past the half-hour.

Leon Simpson's well-struck shot from Aaron Morgan's pass was blocked on the line, but Adeyinka Talabi gleefully tucked in the rebound.

However, a mistake from home keeper Kwame Fordah allowed former Banbury striker Joseph N'Guessan to tap home and equalise two minutes later.

| | |
|---|----------|
| Banbury United | 3 |
| (Talabi 31, Evangelinos 53, Lawless 72) | |
| Arlesey Tn | 2 |
| (N'Guessan 33, Tavernier 61) | |

Eight minutes into the second half, Banbury restored their lead.

Lawless fastened on to a Simpson pass before setting up Nic Evangelinos whose shot from just inside the penalty area hit a defender before going over a helpless Jack Bonham into the far corner of the net.

Once again, Banbury were rocked when Arlesey levelled and it was down to another Fordah error.

The keeper failed to hold on to a cross from former Fulham and Bristol Rovers striker Barry Hayles and Christian Tavernier headed in.

However, Fordah redeemed himself by denying Luis Medina from close range.

Defender Marvin Martin headed an N'Guessan shot off the line as Arlesey turned up the pressure on the hosts.

Ironically, it was an error from Fordah's opposite number, Bonham, that saw Banbury snatch the winner.

The visitors' keeper failed to keep out a low shot from Evangelinos, and Lawless had an easy tap in from two yards.

Banbury could have added to their tally, with Bonham denying substitute Lawless, as the hosts finished strongly.

Banbury Utd: Fordah, Cray, Martin, McNulty, Mbamarah, Rytan, Evangelinos, Green (Pinto 71), Simpson, Morgan, Talabi (Lawless H-T). Subs not used: Balal, A Dumbleton, Hackett.

Attendance: 255.

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

Mixing business and personal issues is not an option this week as each has coming against the other in recent days and weeks. Allow both areas time to have your full attention without having to discuss the other. It's the only way you'll convince those involved how serious you are about your commitment to them. Ring now for a message from Uranus on your future.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Lying to get what you want can only attract trouble. However, since you've already told a few untruths, it seems the most obvious next step. You can and should get yourself out of this hole by moving away from the restrictions in your life, not getting more embroiled in them, my friend. Have you thought of this? Ring now to hear how travel is all a part of the first step you must take.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

There is plenty of fun and mischief on offer but there I sa catch Taurus. What you get up to will become public knowledge in time to come, so make sure you can be proud of your actions. A new face in your circle catches your eye, but keep a slow pace or you'll ruin what should be a fun and memorable introduction. Ring now to hear how solo work projects fare well for you.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

As a more flirtatious side to your character emerges, you find it impossible not to play games. You're having fun and letting off some steam, after what I know was a really difficult beginning to the year for you. Those of you seeking new jobs, follow your instincts on Thursday when they can lead you to the offer of a line. Ring now to hear how older people need to be more of a priority.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

You don't have to take your close one's advice, but you do have to listen to them this week, or they're never going to give up. Travelling for family events puts you back in the company of someone you didn't realise you'd missed. Facing a monetary worry on Friday can see you coming out with a smile on your face and a deal to please. Ring now so I can tell you a secret you need to know.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Things you thought to be true could well turn out to be just hearsay this week, so stop and think before you accuse close ones of things they may not have done. You also need to bear in mind the fact that the coming month will see you needing freedom and leeway of your own, especially if you are to embark on the travel I see forthcoming. Ring now to hear how Leos can smooth family differences.

0906 585 4368

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

You haven't been taking care of yourself as well as you should recently and close ones may comment that you don't quite seem yourself. When was the last time you did something for you? A long time I bet. Make you a priority again. You know you need a major change and like you can't begin to instigate it. Give me a ring so I can restore your confidence again.

0906 585 4363

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

Don't trust those you don't know in business too easily. If you can do a job yourself then do it. It's the only way you can ensure that you lie up important affairs. You may not be getting all the funds you're owed so check paperwork and sums. You could be owed money you're not expecting. Ring me now to hear why house moves and even emigration could be in some Aquarian's plans.

0906 585 4370

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

You're going to have to meet a close one half way if you're to get over the difficult phase I can see you've been experiencing. Sales go well now, but you may have to give in slightly to others' needs if you are to move with the speed you'd like. Mercury brings business deals your way which you hadn't considered but which could turn out to be the lifeline you need. Ring now to reveal your destiny.

0906 585 4364

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Help others refused last week, they are now willing to offer, but get in their quick Pisces, as the floodgates for support and furthering your career only seem to be open until Wednesday. You're not looking after your health. Make sure you're not burning the candle at both ends and that you're getting enough sleep. Mental and physical strength go hand in hand. Call me so I can help you now.

0906 585 4371

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Talking can achieve much this week. You've actually been talking to everyone but the person you needed to but all that changes this weekend when things come to a head, in a good way. Emails, phone calls and texts bring back a deal you'd given up on and can ensure you start to live your life the way you want to and not the way others dictate. Ring now to reveal a lie that's been told.

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War memories that push character off the rails

THE RAILWAY MAN (15, 116 mins)
Drama/War/Romance. Colin Firth, Nicole Kidman, Stellan Skarsgard, Hiroyuki Sanada, Jeremy Irvine, Sam Reid, Tanroh Ishida. Director: Jonathan Teplitzky.

Hosts of the past haunt a former British Army officer in Jonathan Teplitzky's respectful and polished drama.

Based on the bestselling autobiography of Eric Lomax, *The Railway Man* uses a patchwork of flashbacks to recount the writer's treatment at the hands of the Imperial Japanese Army after the fall of Singapore.

Director Jonathan Teplitzky doesn't shy away from the most harrowing episodes of Lomax's story, including a torture sequence which depicts Japanese officers using water-boarding to extract information from their prisoner.

Another scene, much closer to home at a Scottish train station, is equally chilling.

While Teplitzky's picture lands a flurry of punches, it doesn't quite deliver a knockout blow, even in the final act when Lomax attempts to confront a Japanese officer he holds responsible for the war raging inside his head.

Like the smartly-dressed man at the story's centre, the deepest emotions remain tightly buttoned.

When we first meet ardent train enthusiast Eric (Colin Firth), he is safely ensconced in a first-class carriage, casting nervous glances at

the lady sitting opposite.

Eventually he strikes up a conversation with Patricia Wallace (Nicole Kidman) and learns she is visiting the north of England, based on recommendations from a friend.

"With all due respect to your friend, if all he's mentioned is vodka, he's only scratched the surface of Warrington," sweetly blusters Eric.

He engineers another meeting with Patti further up the line and they fall in love and marry.

It quickly becomes clear to Patti that there is something in Eric's past which is troubling him, but her efforts to help are swatted aside.

"You will never again attempt to discuss matters which do not concern you. There's no objection, I hope?" Eric firmly tells his wife.

So she seeks out best friend Finlay (Stellan Skarsgard), hoping he can reveal the scars of the past and ease her spouse's suffering.

"A lot of men went through something you can't even begin to imagine," Finlay tells her.

Ultimately, he recounts to Patti, and us, the horrors faced by young Eric (Jeremy Irvine) and fellow soldiers at the Sakamoto Butai camp.

The Railway Man chugs back and forth between 1940s Singapore and 1980 Berwick, which makes Teplitzky's film feel far more sluggish and laboured than it actually is.

Thankfully, Firth and Kidman are both excellent in emotionally



Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman in a scene from *The Railway Man*

Picture : PA
Photo/
Lionsgate

demanding roles.

Irvine is mesmerising as the younger incarnation of Eric, who is beaten to near-death by the Japanese after a daring attempt to construct a radio from spare parts.

Direction is measured throughout and the tone suitably sombre, honouring the memory of countless young soldiers who resisted their captors, sometimes with their dying breath.

CakeWhat's on

Music

FRIDAY: General Foods S&S Club, Spiceball Park, Banbury: The Summits. Covers duo return with music old and new. Free admission. 9pm. 01295 252852.

SATURDAY: General Foods Sports and Social Club, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury: Banbury Soul Club. Banbury Soul Club playing northern soul and understated Mo'timmer all on vinyl. Guest DJ's Dave Rivington and Tabs plus residents Charlie Mc, Steve Milsom and Tom H. Large sprung wooden dance floor, plenty of seating and friendly atmosphere. £5. 8pm. 07980 585051.

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, Cowley Place, Oxford: Nick Van Bloss (piano). Bach Goldberg Variations. They are so well-known, why hear them again? Because you've not heard them played like this! A fantastic opportunity to hear the Goldberg Variations live from an extraordinary pianist. 8pm. £25 gallery, £20 stalls, £5 student. 01865 286660.

Sheldonian Theatre, Broad

Street, Oxford: 41st Annual Traditional Viennese New Year Concert. Mozart – The Marriage of Figaro; Strauss – waltzes, polkas and marches; Mozart – Concerto for Flute and Harp. To be conducted by Stephen Bell and featuring Graham Mayger (flute), Lucy Wakeford (harp), and soprano Pamela Hay. 8pm.
St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Road, Oxford: St Giles Orchestra Concert. Wagner: Flying Dutchman Overture; Gliere Horn Concerto in Bb, arranged for bassoon by Geoffrey Bushell, featuring Shelly Organ; Tchaikovsky: Symphony no 2 "Little Russian". 7.30pm. £10, student/senior £9, under-18s free. 07517 487553.

Theatre

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Jan 16, Comedy with Rob Deering. Another mixed-bill of comedians from across the UK, headlined by Chippy favourite Rob. With easy charm, cheesy singing voice, razor-sharp wit and clownish physicality, Rob has quickly established himself as a much-

loved face on the UK circuit. 7.45pm.

Jan 17, Richard Digance. The performer and poet, author and artist, brings more hysterical nostalgia and a wealth of new songs and anecdotes. 7.45pm.

Jan 18, Nathan Jones All Stars Jazz Band. Fresh from an extensive theatre tour and the Marlborough International Jazz Festival, this jazz band offers the big sound and bristling energy of the big band. 7.45pm.

Box office: 01608 642350.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford:

Jan 22-25, Lloyd-Webber and Rice's *Evita*. With Marti Pellow as Che. 7.30pm. Mats Thu and Sat 2.30pm. £10-£42. Box office: 0844 871 3020.

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford:

Jan 21-25, *Twelfth Night*. By William Shakespeare. Created by Filter Theatre in association with the RSC. A funny, fast-paced production. Tue-Thu and Sat 7.30pm, Fri 8pm, mats Thu and Sat 2.30pm. £10-£25.50. Post-show talk Wed.

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Honda returning to the fast lane

THIS really is a test drive of a car that will not go on sale for over 12 months. But that's how important the Honda Civic Type-R is.

Previous generations of the Civic Type-R garnered the kind of devotion that money can't buy, and for a while it appeared there would be no new Type-R. But now there is, and that's why Honda allowed a brief taste of it just before the Tokyo Motor Show. Even though it won't appear in showrooms until 2015, this car is so important that we're getting to drive a prototype version very close to the finished article.

You won't mistake it for a regular Civic, that's for sure. Admittedly this example is finished in military-look matte paint and has 'VTEC TURBO' emblazoned down the flanks in a pleasingly '80s retro touch.

But it's a fantastically aggressive-looking thing, with big scoops, unsuitable wheelarch extensions and a rear wing that would suit its BTCC cousin. It looks like a serious piece of hardware and, given that there are plenty of other options if you want a quieter life, it's a good thing the Type-R looks the part.

It's the same on the inside too. Although it can't be taken as entirely representative of the finished product, the chunky bucket seats are exactly what you'd expect, while the familiar Civic dashboard has the addition of a centrally-mounted rev counter and a thicker steering wheel. Purposeful, comfortable and

highly appealing. There's one other addition too. Where the Eco button normally sits high up on the dash there is, instead, the distinctive 'R'. Punch this button and R mode is engaged, which alters both the throttle and steering response, the damper settings and also the reactions of the ESP system.

But before all that, you have to start it up. To some, the news that the Civic Type-R will use a 2.0-litre turbocharged engine rather than a naturally-aspirated one will be a surprise, but in truth it is inevitable. Efficient turbocharged engines are everywhere — even Formula 1 cars from next year, as Honda knows — so to provide Type-R levels of performance without abandoning respectable economy and emissions, turbo is the only way to go.

More importantly Honda is introducing a trio of turbocharged engines for different cars in the range, but the Type-R gets the most powerful of the lot. The engineers are coy, but say the Type-R will have



FAST LANE: The Honda Civic Type-R is due for a 2015 launch

at least 280 horsepower. It feels like that too. Slot the Type-R's manual-only gearshift into first, pull away with intent and the performance is right there from low revs. There's a roar from the exhaust, and the throttle response is nice and sharp, with power around the rev range.

Instead of the expected Type-R high-rev mania there is instead a broad spread of torque — and while that might not sound as exciting, the reality is it feels fast everywhere.

Although time behind the wheel was limited, the steering felt delightfully sharp and responsive with a nice firm feeling to it — that little bit of extra weight encourages confidence.

Auto facts

Model: Honda Civic Type-R 2015, estimated price £30,000
Engine: 2.0-litre petrol unit producing 280bhp and 280lb.ft of torque (est)
Transmission: Six-speed manual gearbox driving the rear wheels
Performance: Top speed 155mph, 0-62mph in under six seconds (est)
Economy: 30mpg combined (est)

Motorshownews

Nissan scores triple victory at awards

What Car? has named the Nissan Qashqai as its Car of the Year 2014 at the 37th annual **What Car?** Awards.

This is the first time that Nissan has won the overall **What Car?** Car of the Year Award; the British-built Qashqai was also named best small SUV.

What Car? editor-in-chief Chas Hallett said: "The all-new Nissan Qashqai brings excellence and polish to a class of cars that is brimming with talent and tempting buys."

BMW collected two trophies; the 435i won best coupé and the new i3 was named best green

car. Audi also had a double victory, with the A3 Saloon winning best executive car and the A3 Cabriolet best open-top.

Two awards were presented to Ford for the Fiesta; the 1.0T 100 Ecoboost Zetec 5dr was declared the best small car and the ST-2 the best hot hatch.

Sports car of the year went to the Porsche Boxster 2.7, while the MPV award went to the Citroën Grand C4 Picasso.

The British-built Range Rover Sport was named best large SUV and the luxury car award went to Mercedes-Benz for the S350 Bluetec 1 SE Line. The Skoda

Octavia was given the family car award and the estate car trophy went to Volkswagen for the VW Golf Estate 1.6 TDI SE Bluemotion Tech.

The all-new Nissan X-Trail, which goes on sale this summer, was awarded the most exciting car 2014 by **What Car?** readers.

Meanwhile, the seven cars that will battle it out to become European Car of the Year 2014 have been announced. The shortlist is made up of the BMW i3, Citroën C4 Picasso, Mazda 3, Mercedes S-Class, Peugeot 308, Skoda Octavia and Tesla Model S.

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■ **FORD'S** internationally-acclaimed 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine has earned another major accolade — the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) Award for Automotive Innovation 2013. Other nominees for the award, which highlights advanced R&D and innovation in the UK automotive industry, included the new McLaren P1 supercar. The 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine, International Engine of the Year in 2012 and 2013, is no bigger than a sheet of A4 paper, but delivers 125 horsepower, and, in a Ford Fiesta, achieves 65.7mpg and CO₂ emissions of 99g/km.

■ **THE Volkswagen Golf** has been named 'Car of the Year 2013/14 in Japan', and so, for the first time in the 34-year history of the award, a foreign car has beaten local competition. The 60-strong jury gave the Golf, which has only been available in Japan since June, 504 out of a possible 600 points — a record for an imported car.

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Cottage Pie.....£4.45

Chicken Curry and Rice.....£4.45

Gammon and Chips.....£4.95

Burger and Chips.....£3.95

Portion of Chips.....£2.50

Extras: Egg, Pineapple, Peas, Chips.....50p each

OPENING TIMES

Monday - Friday: 7:30 - 14:30,

Saturday: 8:00 - 1:00,

Sunday: 9.00-1.00

Also available: Freshly ground coffee, hot and cold snacks, desserts and pastries, all to eat in or take away.

We can offer a catering facility for buffets. Please call in or telephone for more details.

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